

Excellence in Teaching Award Committee Annual Report 2015-2016

This year's Excellence in Teaching Award Committee (EIT) has been smaller than in previous years because our student representative informed us that she would not be able to complete her second term. Dr. Cindy White (Communication), the 2014 EIT full-time award winner, began her sabbatical leave in December 2015. She helped us get the process started. Dr. Rachel Schwell (Mathematical Sciences), recipient of the 2015 award, and Dr. Karen A. Ritzenhoff (Communication) served as co-Chairs of the committee. The following three elected committee members also joined in the review and selection of candidates and award recipients: Dr. Alicia Bray (Biology), Dr. Onder Kaymaz (Accounting), and Dr. Lynda George (Educational Leadership, Policy & Instructional Technology).

The EIT committee sent out a call for nominations in the fall 2015. This year we tried to get the information out via social media in addition to posting flyers around campus. The call was also sent to the chairs of departments to help spread the word. One goal was to encourage part-time/adjunct faculty members to know about the EIT award. As a result of this campaign, we received a record number of nominations for both, full-time and adjunct faculty members by their students. There were **206 nominations** in total. **151 full-time faculty names and 54 part-time faculty** members were presented to the EIT committee. Each nominee was notified and asked to submit the names of another faculty member and six students who could write letters of recommendation. In addition, the portfolio of applicants was supposed to consist of a two-page teaching philosophy as well as a resume. Once we received this information of individuals in late November, the EIT committee contacted seven sources for each nominee, soliciting further documents.

There were **69 full-time portfolios completed; and nine part-time portfolios**. The EIT committee reviewed **78 portfolios to select fifteen semi-finalists**. Eleven full-time faculty and four part-time faculty were invited for interviews, a process that took an entire day in the beginning of the spring semester. We narrowed down the pool to three full-time finalists and two part-time finalists. All remaining faculty were advanced to the honor roll.

The final part of the selection process was the visitation of the finalists' classes. Our EIT committee members were able to observe all full-time faculty members; Lynda George abstained from selecting a part-time member because she was unable to observe classes due to family issues. We selected Dr. Robin Kalder (Mathematical Sciences) as the 2016 winner of the Full-Time Award. We were able to provide two winners for the Part-Time Award who also received the same cash reward: Dr. Brittany Hirth (English) and Dr. Donald Rogers (History).

We celebrated the award winners, semi-finalists and honor roll recipients during our fourth "Faculty Day" on April 15, 2016. President Jack Miller received an

honorary certificate as a member of the honor roll to celebrate his support of the EIT Awards.

The committee has several changes to its by-laws pending Senate approval.

The co-Chairs would like to note that all members of the committee worked diligently and well to make the process fair and enjoyable for all nominees. The process of working on selecting recipients for this award was a gratifying experience. However, we would like to ask for more administrative support to be able to handle the volume of files received.

Submitted by,

Rachel Schwell, Co-Chair, Mathematical Sciences

Karen A. Ritzenhoff, Co-Chair, Communication

Alicia Bray, Biology

Onder Kaymaz, Accounting

Lynda George, Educational Leadership, Policy & Instructional Technology.

Overview of numbers:

2015-2016

206 Faculty nominated

151 Full-Time Faculty (Representing all 4 schools)

54 Part-Time Faculty (Representing all 4 schools)

78 Portfolios were completed

69 Full-Time Faculty

9 Part-Time Faculty

2014 - 2015

76 Faculty nominated

61 Full-Time Faculty (Representing all 4 schools)

9 Part-Time Faculty (Representing all 4 schools)

4 Ineligible Full-Time Faculty*

2 Ineligible Part-Time Faculty*

43 Portfolios were completed

42 Full-Time Faculty

1 Part-Time Faculty

*All faculty members are eligible for nomination but previous winners may not advance past the Honor Roll. Full-Time faculty with less than three years of

service at the university who are nominated for the award are only eligible for Honor Roll. Part-Time faculty are eligible even if they have not served three years.